

# VETERANS BENEFITS AVAILABLE IN REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS

Did you know that if you qualify you can collect GI Bill Veterans Benefits while enrolled in a registered apprenticeship training program?

## CALL AND FIND OUT

## VERIFY YOUR VA ELIGIBILITY

## HOW DOES MY APPRENTICESHIP FIT IN?

Most often these days there is a tendency for us to send an E-mail when seeking information on various topics and although convenient, this method of communication can be time consuming. Sometimes you can get more done with a good old fashioned phone call. Making a call gives you the chance to get all your questions addressed in a timely fashion.

To check on your eligibility status, contact the VA representative at the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) Veterans Training Program:

Tom Cummins  
(406) 444-4122  
[tcummins@mt.gov](mailto:tcummins@mt.gov)

He will explain what documentation you will need and help you determine which VA program you may be eligible for. Even if you have previously collected VA benefits you may still have additional benefits remaining. Tom can also explain to your employer what reporting responsibilities they will have.

Some Guard and Reserve members that have served on active duty can qualify to receive Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill benefits while still serving. Contact OPI to determine possible eligibility.

The VA recognizes registered apprenticeship programs as high-quality training deserving of educational financial reimbursement. If you are a veteran recently registered in a Montana Apprenticeship and Training Program, you should contact OPI to determine if you are eligible for VA educational benefits.

If you are eligible notify your Apprenticeship and Training Program Field Representative, so they can then provide registration certification documentation to the VA.

Apprenticeship and Training Program certification can be documented quickly, but VA processes take longer and you may not receive your first reimbursement immediately, however it will include full allowable payment up until that time.



## WHAT PROGRAMS MAY BE AVAILABLE?

Registered apprenticeships constitute qualified training for a veteran to receive benefits under Chapter 30, Montgomery GI Bill and Chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc-Rehab). Depending on your branch of service, your survivors may be eligible under Chapter 35, Survivors or Dependents programs. Check with OPI for specifics on these programs.

All of these programs pay a monthly stipend directly to the eligible beneficiary:

- ▶ Chapter 30, Montgomery and Chapter 31, Voc-Rehab benefits start higher the 1<sup>st</sup> six months, reduce by 20% the second six months and another 20% for the remainder of the term.
- ▶ Chapter 31, Voc-Rehab benefits increase based on your number of qualifying dependents.
- ▶ Chapter 35, Survivor or Dependents benefits are a progressively reducing monthly stipend that is available for veterans of some branches of the military.



## DOES MY ACTIVE DUTY TERM AFFECT MY BENEFITS?

Chapter 30, Montgomery monthly benefits are approximately 20% higher if you served more than three years of active duty.

## HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO COLLECT MY BENEFITS?

Benefits end 10 years from the date of your last discharge release from active duty.

